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EWART, R. J. *Sex relationship: a brief note on the relationship of age of parents to the sex of children.* Nature, Jan. 5, 1911.

With a mother of about twenty years and a father of about thirty the chance of having a boy or girl is about as equal as nature can make it. Tendency of the present delay in marriage is to produce a population in which the males at all periods are in excess of females.

MACGREGOR, D. H. *The poverty figures.* Econ. Journ., Dec., 1910.

Objects to the practice of making inferences as to national conditions from the local statistics of Booth and Rowntree.

MARCHE, L. *Essai sur un mode d'exposer les principaux éléments de la théorie statistique.* Journ. Soc. Statist., Dec., 1910.

A highly mathematical article dealing with the mean, deviations from the mean or variability, and covariation. One of the most important contributions to statistical method which have appeared during the past year.

PARMELEE, J. H. *The statistical work of the federal government.* Yale Rev., Nov., 1910.

A survey of the work of different bureaus.

NOTES

THE AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION. The growth of the American Economic Association is encouraging. Between the date of the annual meeting and February 1, seventy new members were added.

Registration of members at the St. Louis meeting showed the following distribution of residence by States:

New England.....	17
Eastern States (N. Y., N. J., Pa., Md., D. C.)....	27
Middle Western States, including Minnesota.....	49
Southern States.....	7
Missouri	22
West of the Mississippi (excluding Minn., Mo., and Tex.).....	20

It is to be noted, however, that not all of the members attending took pains to register.

BUREAU OF RAILWAY ECONOMICS. As the result of a conviction on the part of railway officials that there can be no permanent improvement in the relations between the railways and the people in general without a greater degree of mutual sympathy, and that cordial relations must necessarily be based upon a frank discussion, a Bureau of Railway Economics has been opened in Washington, with Mr. Logan G. McPherson, Lecturer on Transportation at Johns Hopkins University, as Director, and Dr. Frank Haigh Dixon, Professor of Economics at Dartmouth College, as Chief Statistician. Both of

these men retain their academic connection. Dr. Max O. Lorenz, formerly of the University of Wisconsin, was appointed Statistician directly in charge of statistical compilation. The Bureau began immediately the accumulation of a railway library which is designed to be as complete as it can be made, and to be freely at the disposal of any one who cares to use it. It contains at present approximately six thousand items, nearly all catalogued and on the shelves, in addition to a file of current literature which, beginning in 1904, is being rapidly brought down to date. Plans have been made for a topical index of railway material in the various publications and for a catalogue of pertinent matter in the important libraries of the country.

The statistical department issues at present two monthly publications. The first is a bulletin based upon the monthly bulletin of revenues and expenses issued by the Interstate Commerce Commission. Its purpose is to analyze and interpret the figures which the Commission presents with little or no analysis. The second issue is a preliminary report covering the monthly revenues and expenses of the fifteen or twenty large systems which are the first to file their reports with the Commission. This gives preliminary information more than two months in advance of the regular monthly bulletin.

In addition to these current publications, special studies are under way. A comparative statement of physical valuation and capitalization in the states in which a valuation has been issued, and a tabulation covering for a series of years the significant statistical information relative to the traffic of the railways of the United States will appear soon. An extended investigation has been undertaken of the relation of the growth in operating expenses to the growth of business, and to the growth in investment of capital in the industry. Other studies are planned, such as a comparison of European and American railway rates, based upon the consular reports prepared at the instance of the National Waterways Commission. Thus far the statistical work has been based upon printed or readily accessible material, but it is the intention as the organization becomes more effective to make use gradually of data furnished directly by the roads themselves and not before published.

In addition to supplying its members with the results of such formal investigations as have been referred to, the Bureau is expected to serve as a clearing house of information upon matters of economic interest to the railways in common, to obtain data requested by its members and to make especial research along particular lines that may from time to time be suggested by them.

TAX CONFERENCE. A New York State Conference on Taxation was held at Utica, January 12th and 13th. In addition to many of the principal tax officials of the state government and to several experts on taxation from other states, there were present over one hundred accredited delegates representing Boards of Supervisors, Cities and Villages, Boards of Assessors, Chambers of Commerce, and Universities. The program was concerned exclusively with questions of taxation of an immediately practical character in the state of New York, the principal topics discussed being the defects of the personal property tax and possible remedies, methods of assessing the general property tax, the taxation of corporations, and the inheritance tax. The Conference proved to be such a success that a committee was appointed to draft a plan for a permanent organization and to call a second conference next year. In the near future the proceedings of the Conference will be published in book form; meanwhile a good report of the Conference and some of the principal papers are given in *Municipal Facts* (New York) for January 19th. Among the members of the American Economic Association who were present and took part in the proceedings were Lawson Purdy, Allen Ripley Foote, A. C. Pleydell, E. R. A. Seligman, and E. W. Kemmerer.

SOCIAL RESEARCH. It is encouraging to note the more definite organization of the work of social research which is carried on in so many American cities by social settlements and other associations for betterment. In Providence, Rhode Island, there has been formed the Bureau of Social Research (55 Eddy St.), an outgrowth of the work of the Union Settlement. Mr. Carol Aronovici is the head of the Bureau. Among the inquiries has been an extensive study of tenement house conditions in five of the cities of Rhode Island, and an investigation of bakeries which led to the passage of one of the best bakery laws in the United States.

Four years ago a Research Department was also organized by the Women's Educational and Industrial Union of Boston as a result of continued demands which had been felt for obtaining definite knowledge with regard to the economic condition of women. Four fellowships for women have been established, bearing a five hundred dollar stipend. During the past and the current year the emphasis has been laid upon a study of the production of women's wear in Massachusetts, covering dressmaking, millinery, and the manufacture of women's wear by machine power. This study will probably be published in

the fall of 1911. The Department has recently established a series of publications, the first volume of which is entitled *Vocations for the Trained Woman; Opportunities other than Teaching*. A second volume will shortly appear upon *Labor Laws and their Enforcement, with Special Reference to Massachusetts*, including a series of monographs by the fellows of the Department during the past three years. A third volume will contain an investigation of the living wage of the self-dependent woman.

ECONOMIC CLUBS. A further step in the development of Economic Clubs has been taken through the establishment of the National Economic League. Its purpose is to aid in the education and expression of public opinion, through the establishment of non-partisan Economic Clubs in as many cities and towns throughout the country as possible; the formation of a National Council to select the main issues for consideration, and of committees to study and report to the Council upon the most important questions discussed. These reports will be widely disseminated. Economic Clubs have already been organized, under the direction of the League in nearly all of the larger cities of New England and in New York City. Others are being formed in Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit, and elsewhere. The Economic Club of New York has a membership of 1200. The others have memberships ranging from 200 to 1000. Some of the Economic Clubs have been in existence for several years and they have invariably proved to be popular and of great educational value. The National Council has at present a membership of about eight hundred. It includes all sections of the country and is made up, so far as possible, of representative men of all classes, interests, and opinions. The Council has recently, by a preferential ballot through the mail, selected as the two subjects of greatest importance for consideration during the coming year, Direct Legislation, including Direct Primary Nominations and Direct Election of United States Senators, and the Delay in the Administration of Justice.

The Economic League invites the affiliation of non-partisan societies that afford a platform for the discussion of public questions and will coöperate with persons who may be interested to form Economic Clubs in places where such clubs do not already exist. The League does not undertake to provide paid lecturers but will advise and assist local clubs, so far as practicable, in securing speakers. Nearly one thousand addresses, many of them by the most eminent speakers in the country have already been delivered before these

clubs. The office of the League is at 6 Beacon St., Boston; Secretary, J. W. Beatson.

In New Orleans a local economic association, the Tulane Society of Economics, is exercising considerable influence. The society is now in its third year; it meets monthly and has a membership of more than eighty. The presidents of the society have been Professor Morton A. Aldrich, Mr. Matthew J. Saunders, and for the current year, Professor Ulrich B. Phillips.

The first National Conference on Vocational Guidance was held in Boston, November 15 and 16, under the auspices of the Boston Chamber of Commerce and the Boston Vocation Bureau. Several hundred persons, representing 45 different cities were present. The discussions fell broadly into four groups; (1) The importance of information about work conditions in general and the nature of opportunities for work in different parts of the country, and opportunities for receiving vocational education; (2) the placing of young workers, involving assistance in the transition from the school to work; (3) guidance or sympathetic counsel of the worker after he has entered upon employment; (4) the importance of establishing vocational bureaus.

In this connection the work of the Boston Vocation Bureau is significant. This bureau has been in active operation for a little more than a year. Through a special agent it has conducted an investigation into a number of vocational opportunities in and about Boston. The information thus secured has been tabulated on cards and the card information has been digested and presented in the form of brief instructive bulletins. These bulletins are for the service of about 120 of the public school teachers who have been assigned by the School Committee to take up the new work of vocational guidance.

In line with this development the Harvard Summer School has arranged for a course of ten lectures to be given next summer by Mr. Meyer Bloomfield, Director of the Boston Vocation Bureau.

The Fourth Annual Convention of the National Society for the Promotion of Industrial Education was held in Boston, November 17-19. Its proceedings will be published by the society during the year. (20 West 44th Street, New York.)

At the eleventh annual meeting of the National Civic Federation held in New York, January 12, one section was devoted to the discussion of Industrial Efficiency, including a consideration of piecework,

bonus, and premium systems of payment for labor. Among the speakers were Messrs. Harrington Emerson, H. L. Gantt, and Warren S. Stone. Consideration was also given to a Workmen's Compensation Act drawn up by a committee, of which Mr. P. Tecumseh Sherman was chairman.

The International Society for Promoting Commercial Education announces that the next summer course of lectures will be given at the London School of Economics from July 24 to August 12. The subject of the course will be "The History and Practical Working of English Commerce and Industry." The four previous courses have been held at Lausanne (1907), Mannheim (1908), Havre (1909), and Vienna (1910).

At the first Universal Races Congress, to be held at the University of London, July 26-29, 1911, one session will be devoted to special problems in inter-racial economics. Papers are announced on Investments and loans, by Professor A. de Navratil; on Wages and immigration, by F. C. Croxton and W. J. Lauck; and on Opening of markets and countries, by John A. Hobson.

A second conference on the Teaching of Economics will be held in Chicago during the early part of May.

The Fifth International Congress of the International Tax Association will be held in Richmond, Virginia, September 5-8, 1911. Lists of the committee memberships and other information may be obtained at the offices of the Association, either at Columbus, Ohio, or 29 Broadway, New York.

The Thirtieth Annual Conference of the American Federation of Labor was held at St. Louis, November 14-26. Of special significance was the discussion in regard to the methods of withdrawing the patronage of organized labor from "unfair" employees. The Executive Council was made the ultimate judge of all such authorizations. For the first time in several years the socialists did not endeavor to force their views upon the Federation.

The increasing demand for trained economists in the government service is illustrated by examinations announced for positions in the Bureau of Labor, United States Department of Commerce and Labor, on January 18 to 21, 1911. There were three examinations: one for experts and special agents with salaries ranging from \$1400 to \$2000; one for research and editorial assistants with salaries ranging from \$1200 to \$1800; and one for statistical clerks with salaries

ranging from \$1000 to \$1400. The requirement for economic or sociological training is particularly emphasized in the first two examinations named. Thus in order to qualify for the positions of expert and special agent applicants must have had either at least three years' specialized economic and sociological training in a college or university, or two full years' practical experience in investigation and research work in some economic or sociological field. For the position of research and editorial assistant one year's special economic and sociological training or one full year's practical experience in investigation and research work in some economic or sociological field is required. In the examinations great weight is given to the educational training and experience, but in addition are the following tests: A thesis on a topic prescribed, outlines of a general investigation of an economic or sociological problem, preparation of digests of submitted economic or sociological reports, tests in practical editorial work, and translations of statistical or economic matter from foreign languages. The last requirement is of considerable interest as emphasizing the practical necessity of developing the teaching of foreign languages in post graduate economic work, not only the traditional German and French, but also Italian, Dutch, Spanish, Russian, and the Scandinavian languages.

The New York Commission on Employers' Liability and Causes of Industrial Accidents, Unemployment and Lack of Farm Labor has been investigating the problem of unemployment since the fall of 1909. During the past summer Hon. George A. Voss, member of the commission, accompanied by Mr. William M. Leiserson, specially assigned to this inquiry, made an investigation in Europe of foreign methods of dealing with the problem. The commission will undoubtedly make recommendations during the present session of the legislature.

The Commission is also engaged in studying the causes and prevention of industrial accidents. Last summer it engaged a consulting mechanical engineer, Mr. George Gilmour, Chief of the Inspection Department of the Travelers Insurance Company, who made a first-hand study of the prevention of accidents to employees in England and Germany. On this subject recommendations will probably be made.

The American Association for Labor Legislation has succeeded in its campaign for the prohibition of poisonous phosphorus in the manufacture of matches. Finding that the Diamond Match Company

owned the patent upon the most available substitute for the poison which causes among match factory workers the disease known as "phossy jaw," the Association for Labor Legislation induced the Diamond Match Company to assign its patent to three trustees, Professor Seligman of Columbia University, Commissioner Neill of the U. S. Bureau of Labor, and Attorney Jackson Ralston of the American Federation of Labor, with power to grant licenses on such terms as the trustees might think just. As even this extraordinary step did not overcome the opposition of certain members of the Ways and Means Committee, the Diamond Company was induced on January 28, to cancel its patent.

Professor F. W. Taussig of Harvard University has in preparation and expects to publish in the course of the present year, a book on *The Principles of Economics*. It will be addressed to the educated public, and will not be constructed as a text-book; but it will cover the range of topics usually considered in text-books and may be available for use in institutions in which a full year's course is given to the subject. It will endeavor to state simply but fully the main principles of economics and their application. There will be very little of economic history; present experiences and problems of the countries of advanced civilization will be primarily had in view. It will not, however, be a hand-book of information; the author is chiefly concerned with principles such as are of general application in the leading countries of modern times. There will be two volumes of about six hundred pages each.

Among other announcements of early publications is *The Navigable Rhine* by Dr. Edwin J. Clapp, of Yale University, to be published by the Committee on Awards of the Hart, Schaffner and Marx Economic Prizes. Professor Clapp has also in course of preparation a book entitled *The Port of Hamburg*. Professor Irving Fisher has contributed an article for *Scientia* (Milan, Italy), on the "Impatience Theory of Interest", which will shortly appear. By the same author is *The Purchasing Power of Money*, to be published by the Macmillan Company. *The Principles of Industrial Management* by Professor J. C. Duncan of the University of Illinois will soon be issued by the Appleton press. Professor F. R. Fairchild, Yale University, is still acting as expert in the United States Forestry Service, devoting his attention more particularly to the question of forest taxation. He plans to publish a book on the subject in the near future. The second volume of the *Oxford Studies in Social and Legal History*, edited

by Professor Vinogradoff, will contain two monographs on English manorial history, one of which is a study of *Customary Rents*, by Miss Neilson, Professor of History in Mount Holyoke College.

Professor S. S. Huebner of the Wharton School has written a volume on *Property Insurance* which is now being published by Appleton and Company. Professor H. M. Robinson of the University of Illinois has completed his book on *Modern Business Organization and Management* for the series issued by the La Salle Extension University.

The Macmillan Company will publish in the near future *A History of Economic Thought: A Critical Sketch of the Origin and Development of the Economic Theories of the Leading Thinkers of the Leading Nations*, by Professor Lewis H. Haney of the University of Texas.

Mr. Frederick L. Hoffman has prepared a systematic and comprehensive work on *Insurance Science and Economics*, to be published by The Spectator Company (135 William St., N. Y.). Professor Charles L. Raper of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, is about to publish a special study of railway transportation and its regulation (Putnam's).

The Prince Society, Boston, has recently published, for its members only, *Colonial Currency Reprints, 1682-1750*, Vol. I. This is edited with notes by Mr. Andrew McFarland Davis. The series will be comprised in four volumes and will make accessible in convenient and comparatively inexpensive form, many rare pamphlets relating to the heated discussion on the subject of the substitution of a paper currency for coin, of mortgage banks, and later of the condemnation of all sorts of paper schemes. A feature of the series will be portraits of distinguished controversialists, facsimiles of title pages, etc. In the first volume there are seventeen illustrations. The society welcomes new members interested in its objects and application may be made to the Treasurer of the Prince Society (Bible Rooms, 12 Bosworth Street, Boston). There are no dues, but a member is under obligation to take one copy of each new book as it appears.

A series of eight lectures on the Philosophy of Socialism was given in Boston during January and February by Mr. James Mackaye, author of *Economy of Happiness*. The position of the orthodox capitalist school and the orthodox socialist school were both criticised, and the theory of utility as the foundation of political science advocated. A method of transition from capitalism to socialism was proposed.

The National Poor Law Reform Association (5 Adam St., Strand, London, W. C.) was formed in March, 1910, in order to secure reforms in accordance with the report of the majority of the Royal Commission recently submitted to Parliament. Several pamphlets dealing with different aspects of the problem of poor law reform have been published and can be obtained, for the most part at one penny each, upon application.

P. S. King & Son, London, announce the decennial supplement to the catalogue of the British Parliamentary Papers, for the years 1900-1910, to be published in May.

The National Committee on Prison Labor (27 E. 22d Street, N. Y.), has published a syllabus brief on *The Importance of the Prison Labor Problem*, by J. Lebovitz, submitted at the last session of the International Prison Congress. A tentative typewritten bibliography on this subject can be obtained by persons especially interested in the subject. The American Prison Association is planning the publication of the *Prisoners' Aid Review* which will have a special department devoted to the question of prison labor.

The awards for the Hart, Schaffner and Marx prizes for 1910 have been announced as follows: In Class A: First prize of \$600, to Edwin J. Clapp, *The Navigable Rhine*; Second prize of \$400, to Benjamin M. Anderson, Jr., *Social Value*; and Honorable Mention to Louis N. Robinson, *History and Organization of Criminal Statistics in the United States*.

In Class B: First prize of \$300 to J. F. Strombeck, an undergraduate in Northwestern University, *Principles of Freight Classification*; Second prize of \$200 to Hornell N. Hart, *The Best Means of Increasing the Wages of the Unskilled*.

In Class C: Honorable Mention to Isaac Fisher, *Most Practical Scheme for Beginning a Reduction of the Tariff*.

An engraving in mezzotint of Walter Bagehot, by Norman Hirst, has just been published by T. Agnew and Sons, 43 Old Bond St., London. The size of the portrait is 12 by 10 inches, and artist's proofs can be obtained.

The New York State Library has recently been made the repository of the Rensselaerswyck manuscripts, a collection of about 200 volumes of ledger and journal accounts and about 25,000 papers, embracing land patents, leases, contracts, deeds, maps, surveys, poll lists, tax lists, and other papers of a public or semi-public nature for the entire district covered by the former manor. Practically all the

books and papers before 1700 are written in the Dutch language. They include about 100 volumes of ledger and journal accounts with colonists, showing the wages paid, supplies furnished, and farm products and rent received in return, 1634-1700; and about 2000 bills and receipts for work done in the colony, ranging in date from 1650 to 1750. The English books and papers include about 100 volumes of ledger and journal accounts of the manor, 1700-1881; six volumes of minutes and accounts of the Tivoli Manufacturing Company, 1836-40; and fifty lists of tenants, tax lists, and poll lists, 1780-1800; and about 500 manuscript maps.

The above papers, with comparatively few exceptions, relate to the administration of the colony or manor of Rensselaerswyck for a period of over two hundred years and are of great value for the economic history of the vast district embraced within its limits. They show the gradual settlement of the territory covered by the present counties of Albany, Rensselaer, and Columbia, the laying out of roads, the building of houses, mills, and bridges, the method of farming, the average yield and value of farm products, the cost of labor, and other economic facts which it would be difficult to find in the public records of the period.

The New York State Library has made a special effort to collect all available material on the income tax, especially in foreign countries. It has also recently obtained all the material collected by the special commission to investigate the Torrens system of registration of land titles. A part of this was deposited with the Library directly by Mr. Clarkson, the chairman of the commission, and the remainder, comprising the supplementary matter referred to the Governor with report, was transferred from the Executive office. This makes a unique collection on the subject of land titles.

Mr. Henry R. Wagner has deposited in the Yale University Library large portions of his collections on the history of the precious metals and of currency. The deposit includes older books of general economic interest, works on the technology of the precious metals, and Spanish American works relating directly or indirectly to the subject. It is particularly strong, however, in English and Irish economic and historical tracts of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. There are more than 7,000 items, including tracts relating to the Banks of England and Ireland, the South Sea Bubble, the Chartists, the Bank Act of 1844, the Indian currency, the California of the fifties, and the bimetallic controversy. Additions are made constantly.

It will be some time, however, before the collection is fully classified and catalogued, and available for inter-library loans.

The library of the University of Chicago has recently secured the library of Mr. Simons, former editor of *The Daily Socialist*. This includes an exceptional collection of about 1,200 pamphlets relating to Utopian projects and the socialist movement in the United States.

Prof. Charles C. Williamson has accepted the position of Chief of the Department of Economics and Sociology in the New York Public Library and will enter upon his duties at the end of the present academic year. Within the next few months the New York Public Library will move into its new building, at Fifth Avenue and Forty-second Street, in which special provision has been made for the separate department which Dr. Williamson will organize. It is hoped to make this library a most important center for research in economic sociology, and allied subjects. The author of the article on Economic Libraries in the latest edition of Palgrave's Dictionary of Political Economy states that the New York Public Library "is believed to have the best collection of economics of any public library in the world outside of the British Museum." The Documents Department of the Library, in charge of Miss A. R. Hasse, now has about 250,000 volumes, being unsurpassed in many lines. It has a very full collection of the series of statistical reports of foreign countries and also possesses an especially complete collection of the administrative and legislative documents and reports, not only of American federal, state, and local governments, but also of foreign states and municipalities.

Professor F. Spencer Baldwin, of Boston University, served as special assistant to the Massachusetts Commission on the Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Mercantile Establishments, which reported to the State legislature in January of this year. Professor Baldwin also prepared, by order of the legislature, a report on the cost of establishing retirement systems for State and county employees. In 1909 and 1910 he acted as secretary of three special Massachusetts commissions, namely: Old Age Pensions and Insurance, the Tax Laws, and the Cost of Living.

Dr. Harrison S. Smalley, of the University of Michigan, has been appointed Associate Professor of Economics in Leland Stanford Junior University. His work at Stanford, which will begin in August, 1911, will be largely in the field of railroad transportation.

Professor Richard T. Ely of the University of Wisconsin has leave of absence for the spring semester. During a trip to Europe, he will study various land problems, especially in Germany and England.

Victor E. Helleberg, recently of the University of Chicago, has been appointed Assistant Professor of Sociology in the University of Kansas to take the place of Maurice Parmelee.

In recognition of the services of Professor L. S. Rowe of the University of Pennsylvania, in the formulation of a plan for the organization of the National University of Mexico, that institution has made Dr. Rowe an honorary professor, and he has agreed to give a course of lectures in July and August during the next two or three years, on "The Political and Social Institutions of the United States," these lectures to be given in Spanish.

Professor F. W. Blackmar is serving on a commission appointed by the Governor of Kansas to investigate the condition and management of the state penitentiary at Lansing.

Mr. James B. Morman, who has served so acceptably as one of the board of editors of the *Economic Bulletin* in the field of agricultural economics, has resigned his position in the United States Department of Agriculture in order to assist Dr. C. Hart Merriam in the preparation of monographic material on the Mammals of North America and ethnological studies of the American Indian. The fund under which this work is undertaken is provided by Mrs. E. H. Harriman.

Associate Professor Ralph W. Cone has resigned his position in the department of Sociology and Economics of the University of Kansas on account of ill health. His place has not been filled.

Mr. Fred C. Croxton, who has been Chief Statistician of the United States Immigration Commission since its organization, has returned to the Bureau of Labor.

Mr. Oscar R. Martin, a graduate of Central Wesleyan University, and Mr. Ira G. Flocken, formerly a fellow at Cornell University, have been appointed assistants in Economics at the University of Illinois.

Dr. John B. Andrews has been reelected Secretary of the American Association for Labor Legislation, which now has a membership of more than 2,000, and with headquarters in New York City is making its influence felt throughout the country in matters of protective labor legislation.

Professor W. Z. Ripley of Harvard University will be absent during the second half of the current academic year; a part of his vacation will be spent in Egypt.